



News from

TOM TANCREDO

Colorado's Sixth District Representative

1130 Longworth House Office Building • Washington, DC 20515 • (202) 225-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 2004

CONTACT: Carlos Espinosa
202.225.7882

**TANCREDO CONSERVATION BILL CLEARS ANOTHER
HURDLE AS HOUSE OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVES MEASURE**
*“Legislation Designed to Increase Fines for People Who Start Forest Fires,
Intentionally Destroy Public Lands Expected to Pass Easily in Senate”*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The full House of Representatives today approved legislation (H.R. 3247) authored by Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo’s (R-Littleton) that would enhance penalties for individuals who intentionally inflict damage to federal lands, and set a stiff minimum fine of \$500 for individuals who violate fire bans on federal lands. National Interagency Fire Center statistics show that, on average there are more than 100,000 human caused wildfires each year – more than ten times the number started by lightning.

“My legislation sends a clear and unambiguous message to individuals who deliberately engage in irresponsible activities on public lands,” said Tancredo, member of the Resources Committee, and the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health. “Abuse our public lands and you will pay the price.”

Swift passage of the bill is expected in the Senate, where Colorado Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) has introduced a similar bill, S. 833. President Bush, whose administration testified in support of the bill earlier this year, is expected to sign it.

The bill known as the TRAIL Act, enjoys broad bi-partisan support in the House, and was unanimously approved by the committee prior to floor consideration.

“Protecting our public lands and punishing those who would intentionally destroy them is a bipartisan responsibility in the west,” said Tancredo, referring to the legislation which was cosponsored by more than a dozen Congressman, including fellow Colorado Reps. Mark Udall (D-Eldorado Springs), and Scott McInnis (R-Grand Junction).

I’m pleased that we could get together on this in the house, and I am optimistic that Senator Allard will be able to carry the bill that last yard across the goal line,” concluded Tancredo.

###

<http://www.house.gov/tancredo/>